

Agency Spotlight: Virginia State Police



For 75 years the Virginia State Police has fulfilled its public safety mission by serving the Commonwealth of Virginia through its superior enforcement, investigative, educational, technological, and analytical resources.

In 1919 when Virginia swore in its first two statewide “inspectors” the state police was part of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Inspectors enforced traffic laws and motor vehicle registrations. On July 1, 1932, the Virginia General Assembly expanded their duties to include enforcing the criminal codes of the Commonwealth and the inspectors became known as “troopers.”

At the time, the DMV and state police headquarters was housed in the basement of the state Capitol, and new troopers were issued either a 1932 white Chevrolet roadster or motorcycle.



Virginia State Police participates in the 1932 Smith County Centennial Parade in Saltville.



In 1939, the Virginia State Police moved its administrative headquarters to a seven-room farmhouse on Route 60/Midlothian Turnpike.

By 1941, a two-story brick building replaced the farmhouse and became the official administrative headquarters for state police.



A year later, the Virginia State Police and DMV were officially declared separate agencies. Since then the Virginia State Police has functioned independent yet supportive of other law enforcement and criminal justice agencies and provided high quality, statewide law enforcement services to the people of Virginia and its visitors.

The Department is divided into three bureaus: [Bureau of Administrative and Support Services](#), [Bureau of Field Operations](#) and [Bureau of Criminal Investigation](#). Currently the state police have more than 1900 sworn members and approximately 600 civilian employees among its ranks statewide.

From its beginnings to the present day, the men and women of the Virginia State Police have continuously fulfilled their public safety mission of preserving the quality of life for those living, working, and visiting in Virginia.



Command Post - Hurricane Camille, 1969



Pentagon, Sept. 11, 2001



Canvassing a Fredericksburg crime scene - Maryland-DC-VA Sniper Investigation, 2002



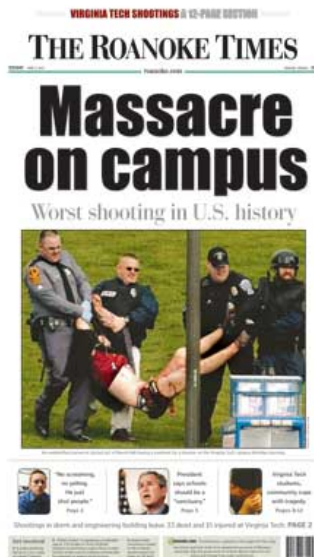
Helping the citizens and supplementing local police forces in Mississippi - Hurricane Katrina, 2005



Inauguration Parade, Governor Tim Kaine – Williamsburg, January 2006



Virginia Tech, April 16, 2007



Queen Elizabeth II Visits Virginia – Richmond, May 2007

